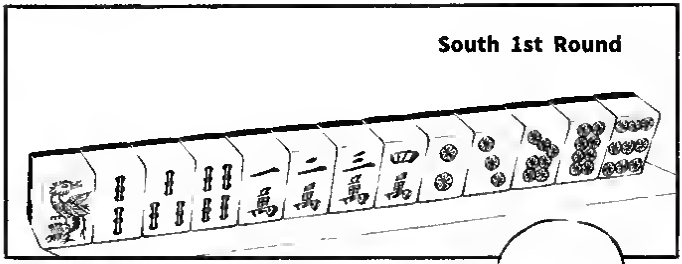
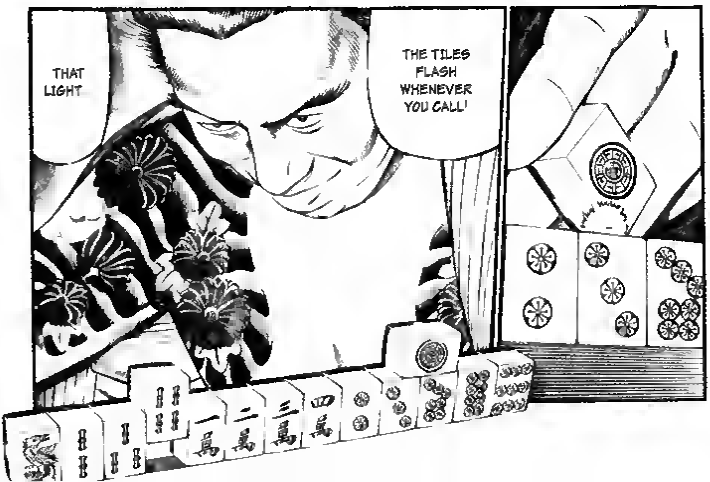
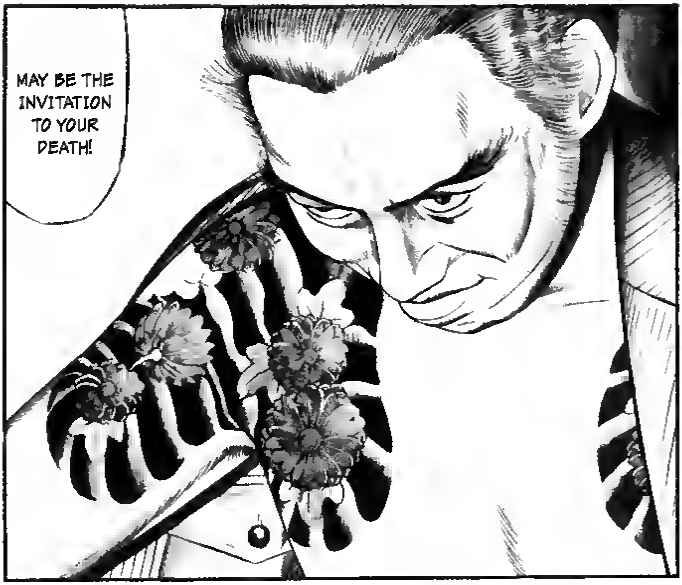
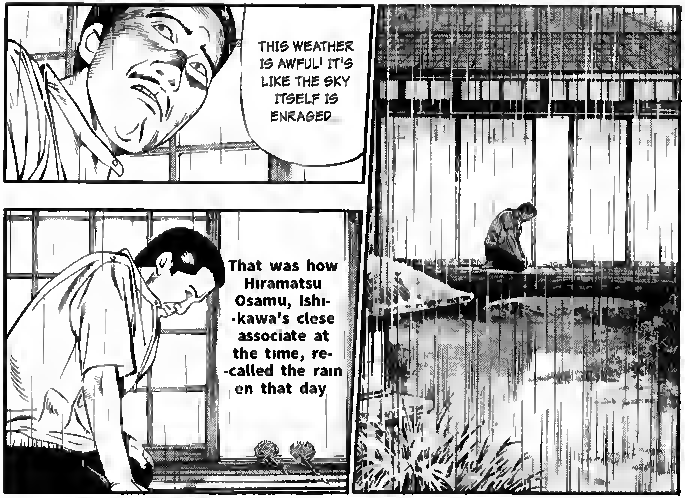

South 1st Round

YOU TRULY LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME, RYUU

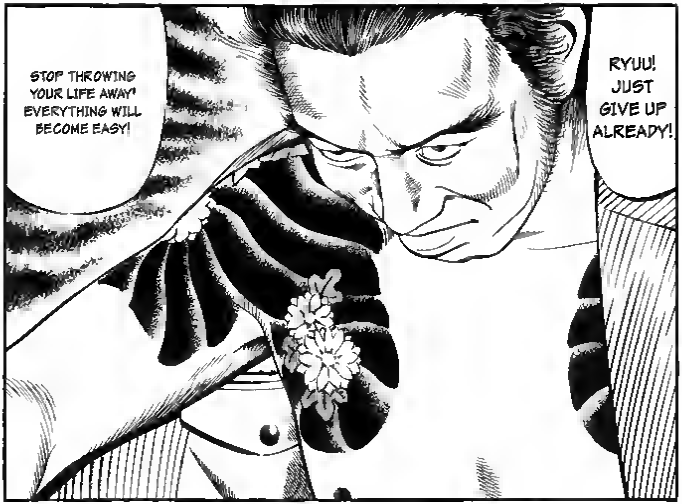

THAT LIGHT
THE TILES FLASH WHENEVER YOU CALL!

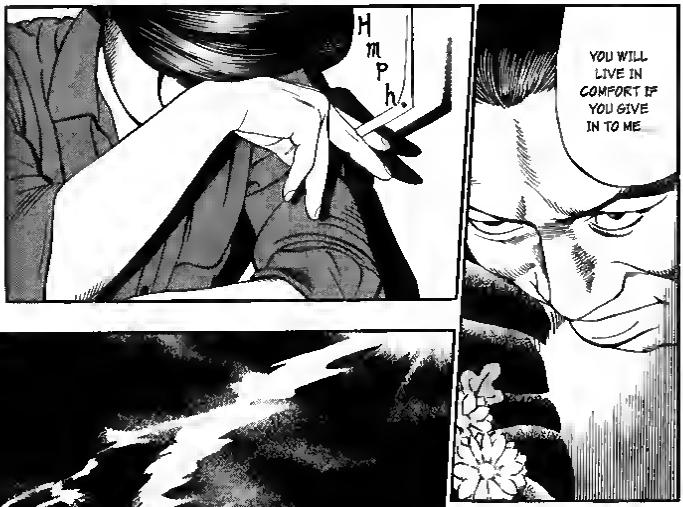

MAY BE THE INVITATION TO YOUR DEATH!

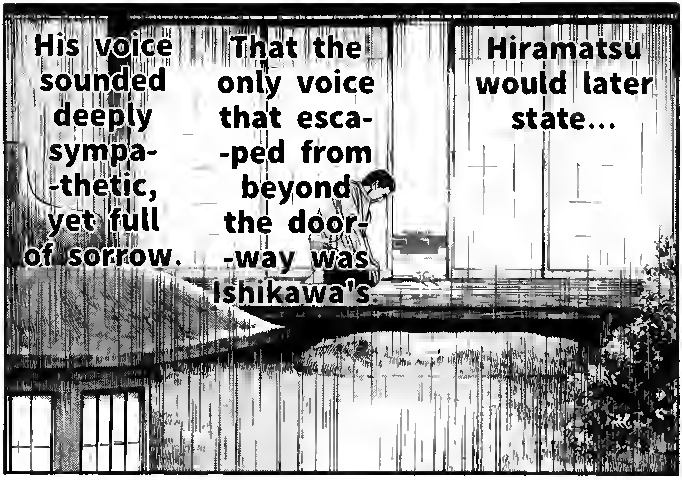

THIS WEATHER IS AWFUL! IT'S LIKE THE SKY ITSELF IS ENRAGED
That was how Hiramatsu Osamu, Ishi--kawa's clese associate at the time, re--called the rain en that day

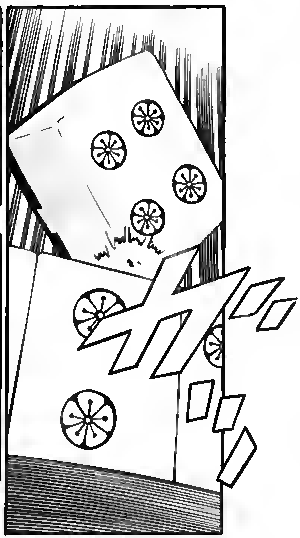
FOR YOUR INFOR-MATION, RYUU.
THE WORD "DEFEAT" HAS NEVER BEEN A PART OF MY VOCABULARY
I WILL BE THE ONE THAT WINS THIS MATCH!

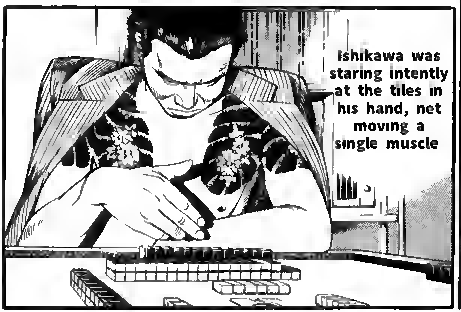
PON.
OHO!
YET ANOTHER FLASH BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, I WILL EMERGE VICTOR--IOUS IN THE END!
I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED!

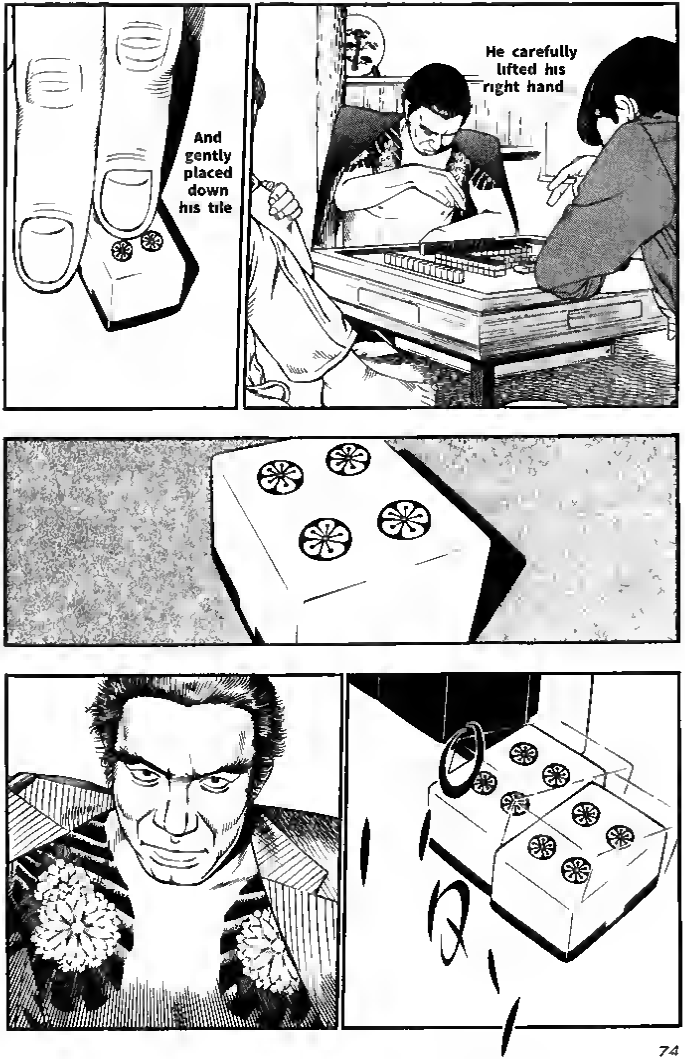

STOP THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY! EVERYTHING WILL BECOME EASY!
RYUU! JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!

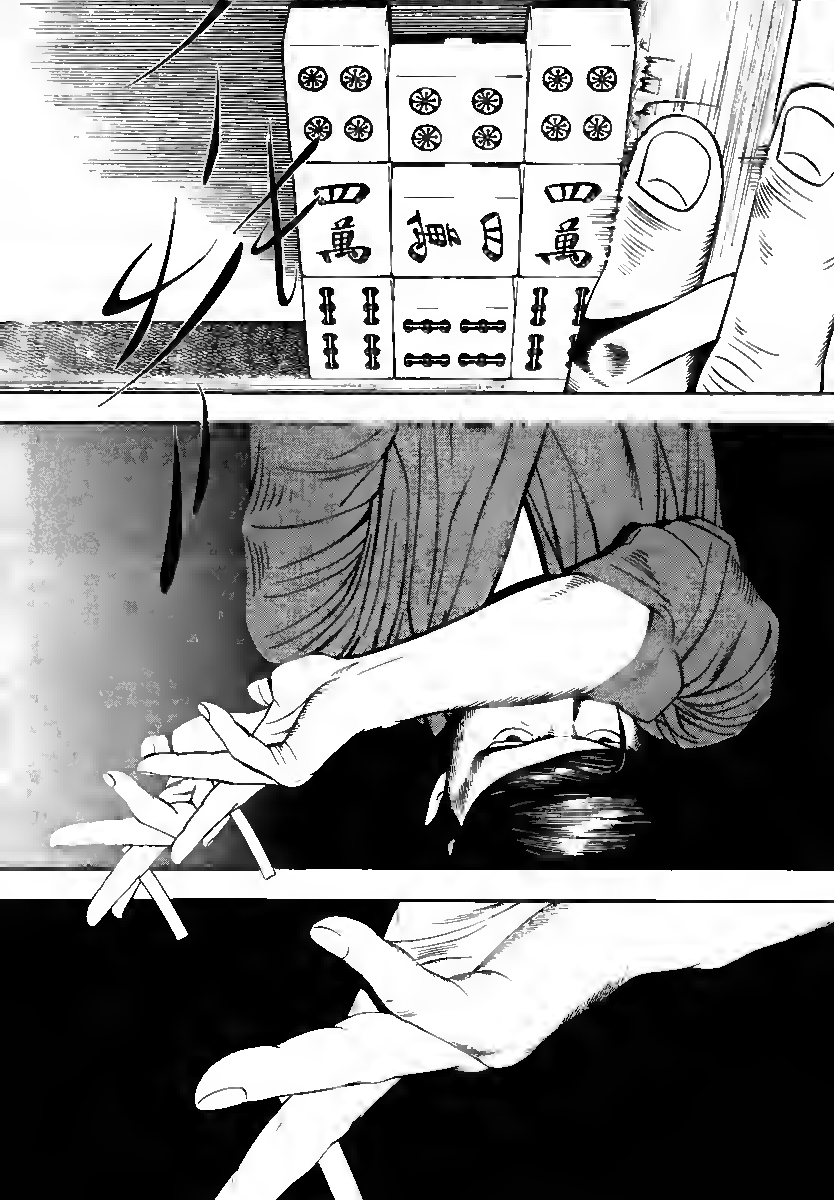

Hmph.
YOU WILL LIVE IN COMFORT IF YOU GIVE IN TO ME

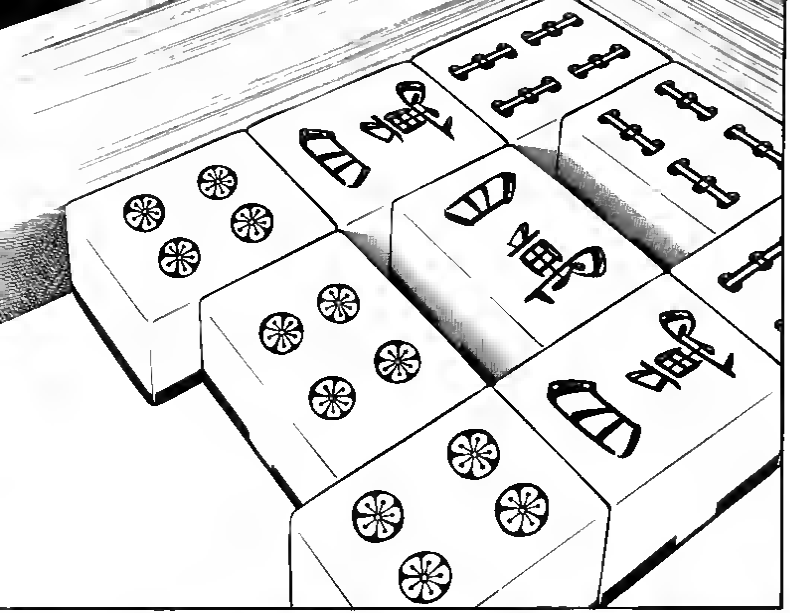

His voice sounded deeply sympa--thetic, yet full of sorrow.
That the only voice that esca--ped from beyond the door--way was Ishikawa's.
Hiramatsu would later state...



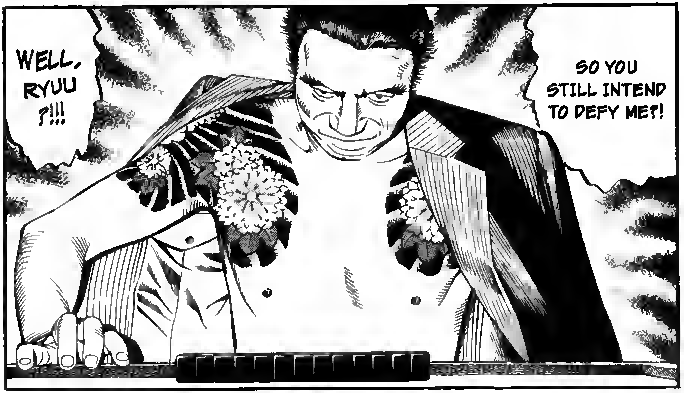

Ishikawa was staring intently at the tiles in his hand, not moving a single muscle

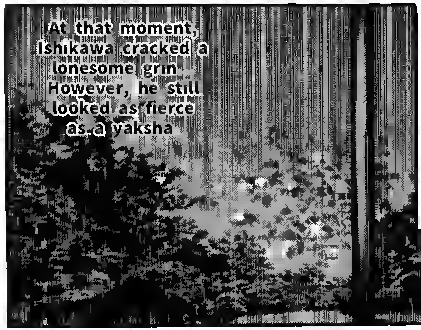

He carefully lifted his right hand
And gently placed down his tile

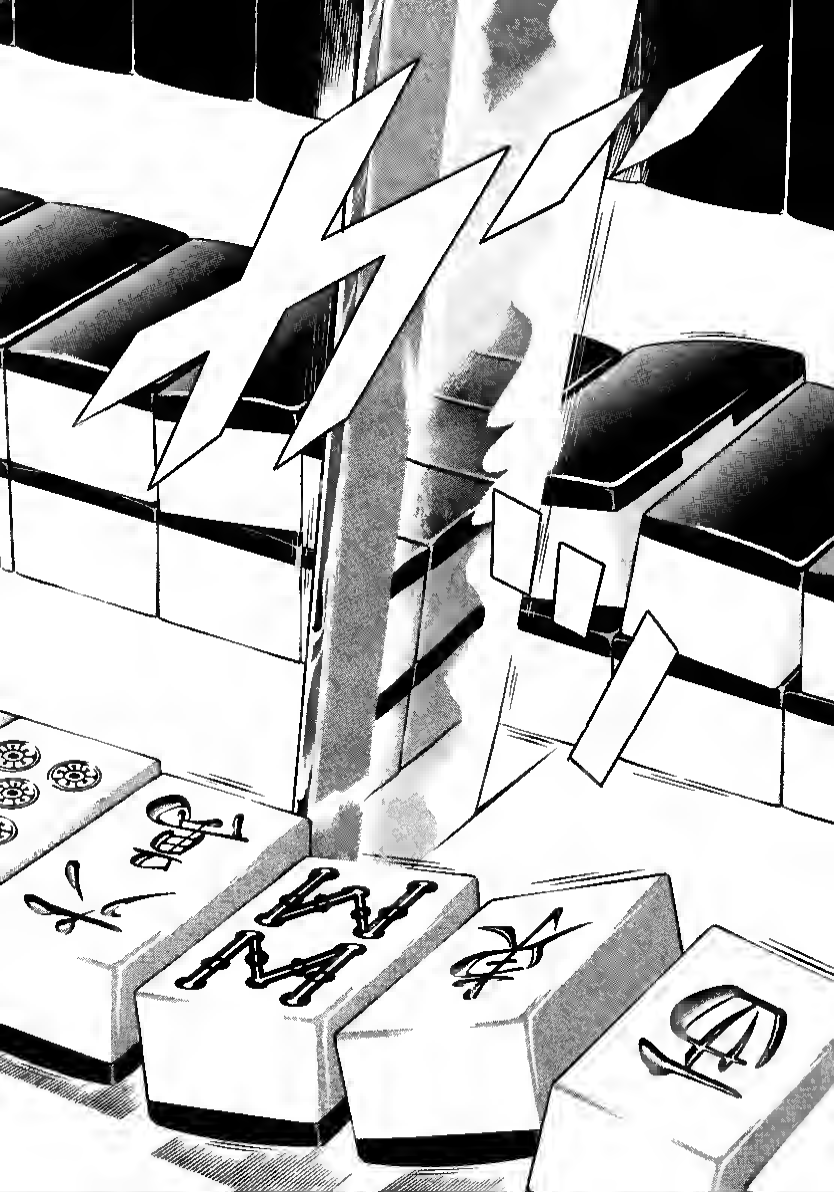




R-RYUU !!!

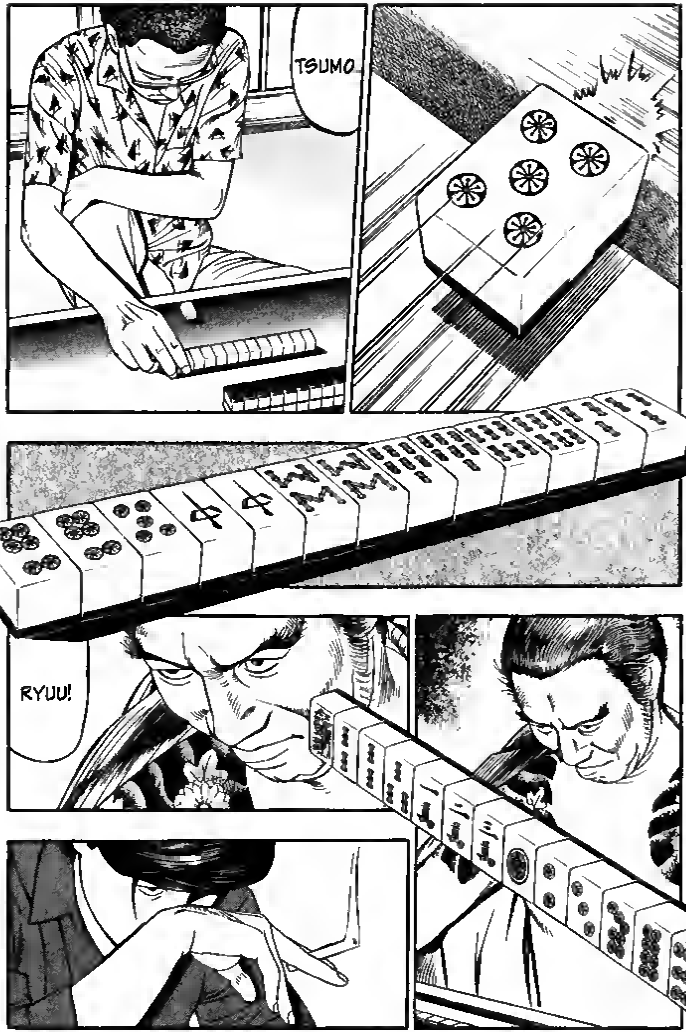

WELL, RYUU ?!!!
SO YOU STILL INTEND TO DEFY ME?!


At that moment, Ishikawa cracked a lonesome grin. However, he still looked as fierce as a yaksha.

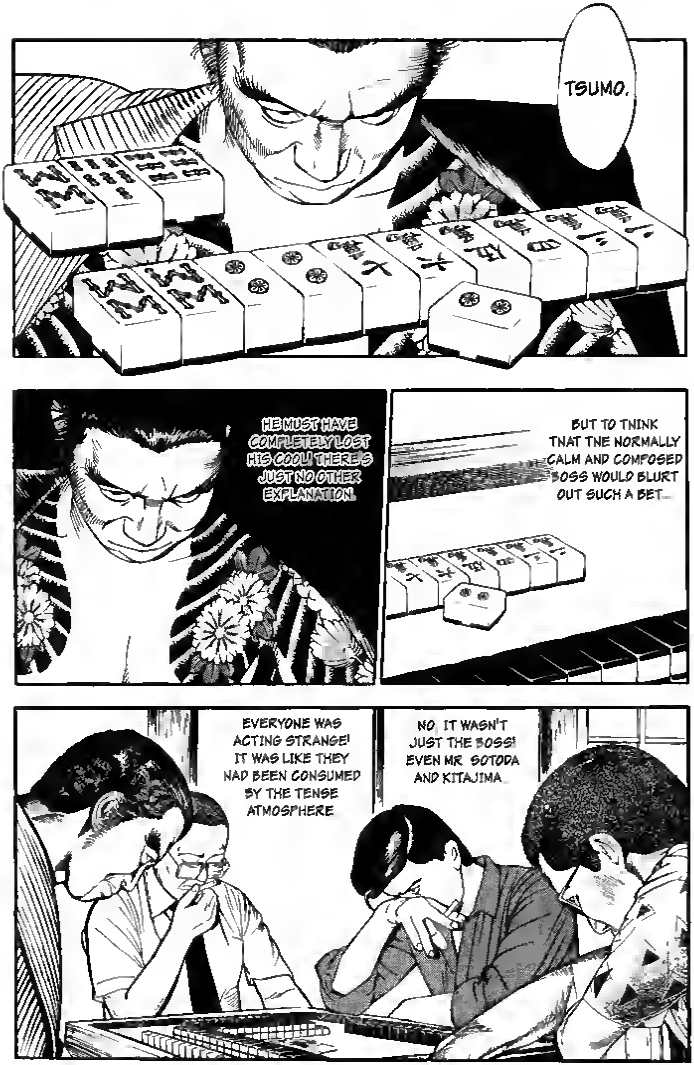


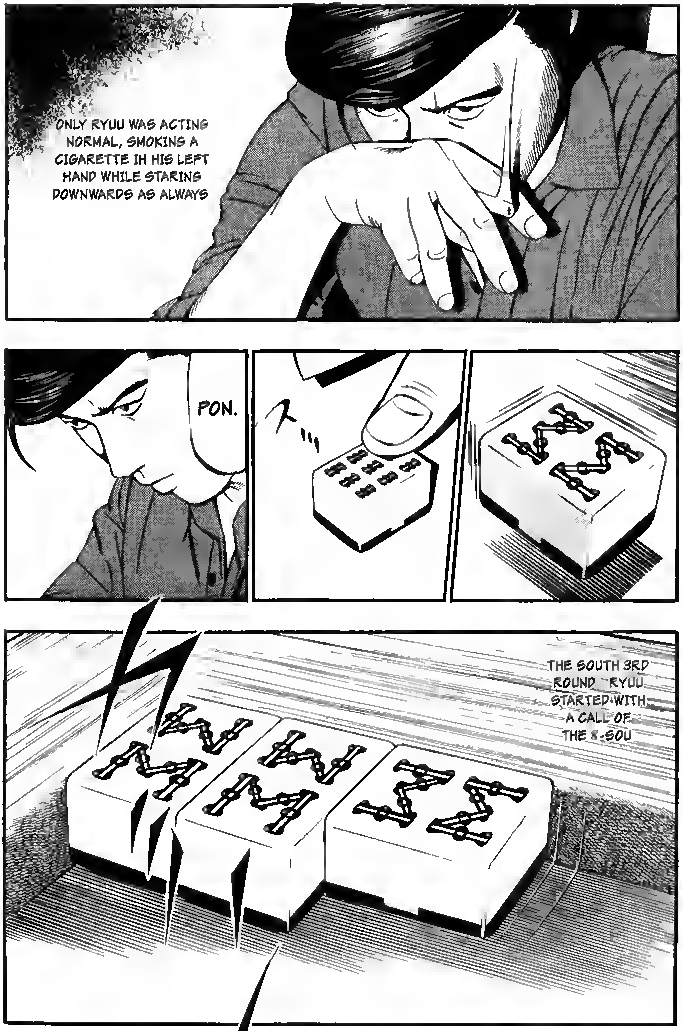
YOU REALLY ARE FASCINATING, RYUU!
I'LL PUT THIS SYNDI-
-CATE'S CREST ON THE LINE FOR THIS MATCH!

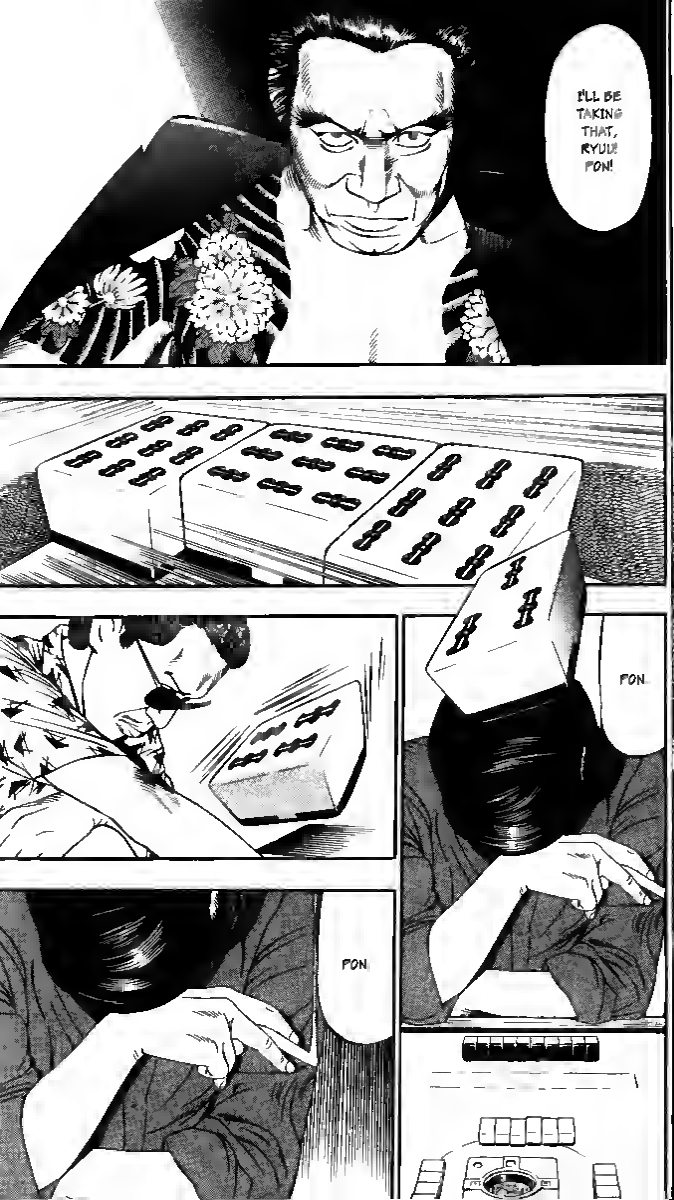
...the younger reserves even came out in a panic!"
"I'll never forget the moment the Boss said those words... His voice resounded through our very souls...
Hiramatsu continued to recall that stormy night.
As the rain grew even more intense...

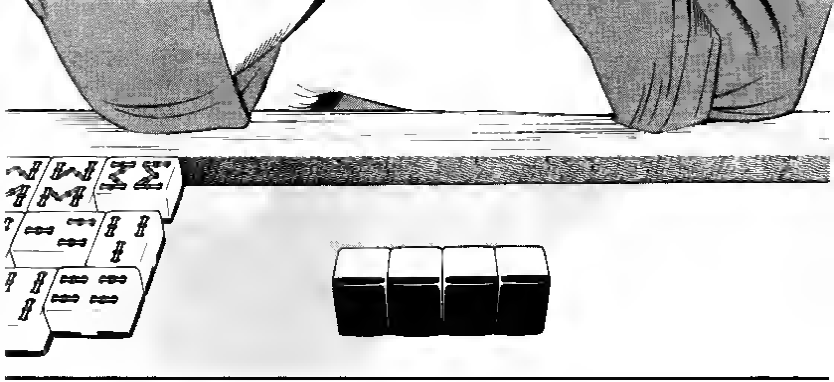

TSUMO
RYUU!

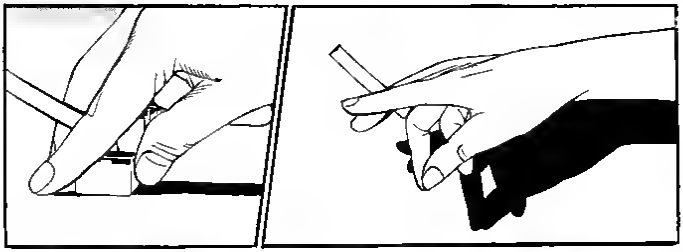
RYUU WOULDN'T GIVE IN, NO MATTER THE OUTCOME OF THIS MATCH
I FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD THE BOSS'S FEELINGS SO WELL THAT IT HURT
"JUST GET ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES AND BOW DOWN TO ME ALREADY, RYUU!!" I KNEW THAT HE DESPERATELY WANTED TO SAY THAT

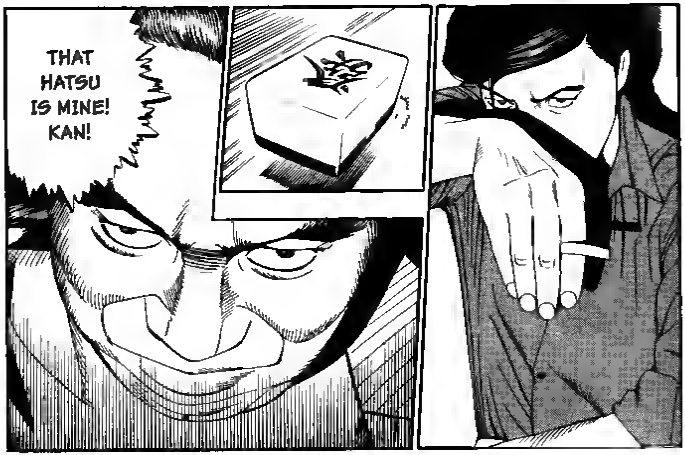

TSUMO.
HE MUST HAVE COMPLETELY LOST HIS COOL! THERE'S JUST NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
BUT TO THINK THAT THE NORMALLY CALM AND COMPOSED BOSS WOULD BLURT OUT SUCH A BET...
EVERYONE WAS ACTING STRANGE! IT WAS LIKE THEY HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE.
NO, IT WASN'T JUST THE BOSS! EVEN MR. GOTODA AND KITAJIMA...


ONLY RYUU WAS ACTING NORMAL, SMOKING A CIGARETTE IH HIS LEFT HAND WHILE STARING DOWNWARDS AS ALWAYS
PON.
THE SOUTH 3RD ROUND RYUU STARTED WITH A CALL OF THE 8-SOU


I'LL BE TAKING THAT, RYUJI! PON!
PON.
PON.





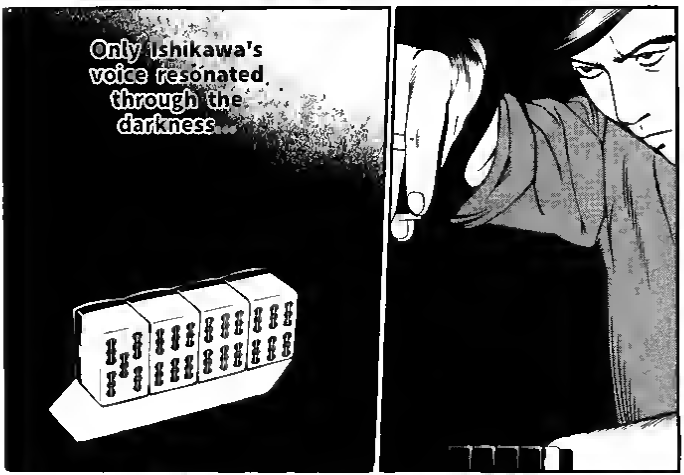

THAT HATSU IS MINE! KAN!

KAI SHOUZOU TOLD ME THAT GETTING INTO A CALLING WAR WITH YOU WOULD CAUSE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
BUT I WON'T BACK DOWN!
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE YAKUZA!
YOU HAVE TO WIN THE FIGHTS THAT YOU START.
HEH.

YOUR BACK
IS COVERED
IN SOOT.

KAN.
R-
RYUU
!!!

At that moment, the battlefield was plunged into pitch darkness...



Chapter 18 (Catura): End

Translated by Denji

Cleaning, redrawing, typesetting by Penchan

Naki no Ryuu